

Claims

1. A clamp for securing to a pipe or flowline for mounting buoyancy thereon, the clamp comprising:

5 i) a clamp body having surfaces against which buoyancy may abut

ii) means for urging the clamp towards the pipe, and

iii) a radially resilient member capable of expanding or contracting to conform to changes in diameter of the pipe.

10 2. A clamp as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radially resilient material lies intermediate the means for urging the clamp towards the pipe and the clamp body.

15 3. A clamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the radially resilient material comprises a polymeric material.

4. A clamp as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymeric material comprises compounded natural or synthetic rubber.

20 5. A clamp as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~¹ wherein the radially resilient material is spaced apart from adjacent material to which it is not bonded at a plurality of locations.

25 6. A clamp as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~¹ wherein the clamp body comprises a fibre reinforced plastics material.

7. A clamp as claimed in claim 6 wherein the fibre reinforced plastics material comprises a thermosetting resin comprising epoxy, polyester, vinyl ester or mixtures thereof reinforced by fibres of one or more of glass, carbon or metal.

5 8. A clamp as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~¹ wherein the means for urging the clamp body toward the pipe comprises titanium or Kevlar® (poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide).

10 9. A clamp for securing to a pipe or flowline for securing buoyancy thereon substantially as described herein by reference to any one or more of the figures.

15 10. The use of a clamp as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~¹ in mounting buoyancy on a pipe or flowline.

11. A method of mounting buoyancy on a pipe or flowline, the method comprising the steps of:

a) mounting a clamp comprising

20 i) a clamp body having surfaces against which buoyancy may abut,

ii) means for urging the clamp body towards the pipe, and

25 iii) a radially resilient member capable of expanding or contracting to conform to changes in diameter of the pipe about the pipe,

- b) urging the clamp body towards the pipe and
- c) mounting buoyancy on the clamp body.

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